Development of Ranikhet as a hill station

773. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have decided to develop Ranikhet as a hill station in Uttaranchal as a tourist spot;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have earmarked any amount during the current financial year for the development and the beautification of this hill station; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) Development of tourist places is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Departmentof Tourism, Government of India, provides financial assistance to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations every year for the tourism projects identified in consultation and interaction with them. The financial assistance is provided for the tourism projects under the schemes of Integrated Development of Tourism Circuits, Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development and Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects.

No such proposal for development of Ranikhet as a hill station has been received from the Uttaranchal Government so far.

Circular train through South India

774. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received for running a circular train through South India to boost tourism; and

(b) if so, the action taken to implement the circular trains connecting important South Indian tourist destinations?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) No proposal for running a circular train through South India is under consideration in the Department of Tourism.